

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

MAY 11, 2015

Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Office

Present: Warden V. David, Deputy Warden S. McNamara
Councillor M. Beaton, Councillor B. Marchand,
Councillor S. MacNeil, Councillor S. Sampson,
Councillor G. Johnson

Warden David called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Regrets were sent by Councillor Samson, Councillor Martell and Councillor Boucher.

Items Added to the Agenda

Warden David indicated that there were no items added.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Deputy Warden McNamara that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Warden David gave notice that he would be declaring a conflict of interest prior to the approval of cheques because there were cheques written to his business.

Review of Minutes: April 13, 2015

Moved by Deputy Warden McNamara, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the minutes of April 13, 2015 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Presentation

- a) Strait of Canso Superport Corporation (Mr. Tim Gilfoy) re: Strait Superport

Warden David welcomed Mr. Tim Gilfoy to the meeting.

Mr. Gilfoy gave a power point presentation (Copy attached).

The following points were brought forth during the presentation:

- A brief overview of the history of the organization was provided;
- Strait of Canso Superport Corporation Limited (SCSCL) is governed by a Board of Directors;
- Transport Minister Lisa Raitt endorsed the efforts of the SCSC to define a governance structure for the Strait of Canso that would result in the harbour dues collected in the Strait being reinvested in the Strait;
- Transport Canada's recent conclusion suggested that a management agreement would require an amendment to the Canada Marine Act (CMA);
- There will continue to be challenges; however, the Strait Area must take a united approach in bringing about a governance structure that takes the Port into the future.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- There needs to be better dialogue between the business community and SCSC;
- New infrastructure needs to be established in order to survive;
- The intent of SCSC is not to enforce new fees, rather to keep the current fees in the Strait Area. Currently all fees collected are sent directly to Ottawa;
- Reinvestment of local fees would be used for marketing and infrastructure;
- The reporting system needs to be enhanced to ensure all stakeholders are kept in the loop; Information is not coming back to the Municipalities;
- All municipalities have different representation;
- Quarterly reports will be sent out.

Warden David thanked Mr. Gilfoy for the presentation.

- b) Jeff Stanley, Director of Economic Development & Tourism re: Welcome Signage

Warden David welcomed Mr. Jeff Stanley to the meeting.

Mr. Stanley gave a presentation on the progress of the welcome signage.

Mr. Stanley noted the following:

- Mr. Greg Silver was contracted out to provide welcome signage for the entry points of Richmond County;
- A brief overview of the sequence of events was provided;
- Richmond County is diverse culturally and geographically;
- It is difficult to select unique markers to satisfy everyone, which makes it challenging for the designer;

- The main concerns brought forward were:
 - The color of the eagle; should be real life;
 - Coloring of the signage
- Options for moving forward were:
 - If Council is not happy with the signage, pay the designer and start again with someone else;
 - Provide cohesive, constructive criticism for changes to the current sign;
 - Keep the existing sign.

The following points were brought forth during presentation:

- The sign is very disappointing;
- The colors do not portray a positive and welcoming image;
- The sign is very busy visually;
- There were some improvements from the original design; however the colors are not suitable;

It was noted that Mr. Stanley and the CAO would meet with the Director of Public Works to discuss the procurement process prior to meeting with Mr. Silver where discussions would take place regarding a go forward plan. A report would be brought back to Council in May.

Solicitors/Eastern District Planning Commission re: Proposed Demolition:

- Property of Niagara Crack Sealing Company Ltd and Irene and David Terrio, 115 MacEachern Road, Port Royal, NS, PID #75119974, AAN 04555112;
 - (i) Mr. Sean Donovan re: Update on Property
 - The property was posted with a notice of proposed demolition on April 14, 2015;
 - Dwelling appears to be abandoned and is not being maintained;
 - Serious signs of wood rot on the exterior walls;
 - Dwelling is in a ruinous and dilapidated condition;
 - Dwelling is no longer suitable for human habitation or business purposes;
 - Dwelling is unsightly and beyond repair;
 - Dwelling meets the Municipal Government Act definition as “dangerous and unsightly”;
 - (ii) Opportunity for the Above Property Owner to Address the Committee

There was no property owner in attendance or correspondence received.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the Committee recommend to Council that an “Order to Remedy Condition” be issued to Niagara Crack Sealing Company Ltd and Irene and David Terrio, 115 MacEachern Road, Port Royal, NS, (PID #75119974, AAN 04555112) and notice having been given, that the Order be a Demolition Order issued from Council to the owners. The Order should state to the owners that the dwelling is to be demolished and all debris be removed and disposed of in the appropriate manner within thirty (30) days. If the property owner fails to comply, the Municipality will complete the same and recover the costs. Motion carried.

Municipality of the County of Richmond, Heritage Advisory Committee/Municipal Registry of Heritage Property re: Property Commonly known as St. John’s Anglican Church, Arichat, PID #75084517;

- (i) Opportunity for the Above Property Owner to Address the Committee

Warden David welcomed Mr. Robert Belyea and Ms. Bernice Morrison approached the committee.

A discussion period ensued.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- Mr. Belyea requested a copy of the original application;
- Ms. Morrison indicated that there was a potential buyer for the property; however, should the property become designated as a heritage property before the sale is final it could create a barrier for sale;
- Mr. Belyea asked for clarification of the meaning of “public building interior”, as noted in Section “F” of the letter from the CAO to the Parish of Strait Chedabucto;
- Ms. Morrison indicated that the Parish is not opposed to the heritage status, but the timing is not ideal. The sale of the property is taking longer than anticipated;
- The air quality of building was tested; there are severe levels of mold in the basement and moderate levels in the upper level;
- The proponent is aware of the mold issue and is willing to cover the financial cost of the Parish Council and fix the building;

Budget Debate

Warden David indicated that no questions were brought forward to date.

The following points were brought forward:

- There should be an evening set aside to discuss the budget in greater detail;

- An unknown exists regarding the effects of the Port Hawkesbury Paper tax agreement for the municipality next year. Assessment will be reduced;
- The fiscal review could provide some revenue for the municipality;
- Residential construction is increasing;
- The proposed budget shows an increase in the Recreation and Economic Development & Tourism Departments and a decrease in the Public Works and Administration departments;
- Fire department levies have increased due to assessments;
- Many municipalities in Nova Scotia take advantage of cost sharing for road work;
- The VSA account was created as a result of uncollected accounts within the boundary; This was done under the direction of the VSA; the Municipality is administrating the collection and all questions from the tax payers are being redirected to the VSA;

It was decided that a Special Committee of the Whole Meeting would be scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 6:00 pm to further debate the budget. Staff will send out a meeting invitation to all Councillors and Directors and ensure that the meeting is advertised.

Correspondence

For Your Information

- a) Health and Wellness re: Emergency Department Closures;

For information purposes.

- b) Nova Scotia Internal Services, Public Works Division re: Lease - Service Nova Scotia, Land Registry Office;

For information purposes.

- c) UNSM re: 2014 Resolutions Responses;

For information purposes.

- d) Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal re: Winter Maintenance

For information purposes.

Action Required

- a) Eastern District Planning Commission re: Estimate of Revenues and Expenditures for 2015-2016;

The CAO indicated that the Eastern District Planning Commission Estimate of Revenues and Expenditures for 2015-2016 was worked into the current budget.

b) Celtic Colours International Festival re: Funding request;

Councillor MacNeil indicated that this was not the same funding request that was sent in yearly. There would be another request coming forward. This request was the result of two groups coming together to organize a new program.

Consensus was granted to move the request from the Celtic Colours International Festival to budget deliberations.

c) Chris Boudreau, Director of Public Works re: Compost Availability;

The CAO noted the following:

- The Richmond Solid Waste Management Facility would have compost available for residents before the end of May, weather permitting;
- A new cost structure was proposed for the distribution of compost of \$40/tonnes (with \$5.00 minimum charge) for both commercial and residential plus an additional equipment loading fee of \$10 where applicable;
- Residents who choose to load their own would be expected to supply the shovels as well as containers to hold the product;
- Residents and businesses would not be permitted to operate their own heavy equipment onsite to load the compost – manual loading only would be permitted.

The following points were brought forth during discussion:

- There is approximately five times more compost this year than last year;
- The Director of Public Works would advise Council of the amount of compost released from the Waste Management Facility last year.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, seconded by Councillor Beaton that the Committee recommend to Council to accept the recommendation of the Director of Public works and that the cost structure for compost beginning in 2015 be \$50 per tonne for residential and commercial customers (for municipally loaded and self-loaded) with a minimum applicable charge of \$5.00 plus an additional equipment loading fee of \$10 where applicable AND FURTHER MOVED that residents and businesses would not be permitted to operate their own heavy equipment onsite to load compost – manual loading only would be permitted. Motion carried.

d) Shannon Mury re: Grant Requests

- Richmond Cheer Athletics, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$700);
- Rocky Bay Irish Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3 (\$5,024.32);
- L’Archeveque Wharf Preservation Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10 (\$20,000);
- L’Ardoise Community Centre, c/o Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9 (\$2,000);
- Isle Madame Baseball Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$500).

Councillor Johnson requested that the grant application from L’Archeveque Wharf Preservation Society, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #10 (\$20,000) be removed from the list.

Councillor Marchand indicated that he wished to contribute \$100 to the Isle Madame Baseball Association Municipal Activity Grant Fund request.

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Deputy Warden McNamara that the Committee recommend to Council that the following grants be approved:

- Richmond Cheer Athletics, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$700);
- Rocky Bay Irish Club, Municipal District Infrastructure Fund, District #3 (\$5,024.32);
- L’Ardoise Community Centre, c/o Holy Guardian Angels Parish, Municipal District Activity Fund, District #9 (\$2,000);
- Isle Madame Baseball Association, Municipal District Activity Fund, Multiple Districts (\$600).

Motion carried.

Approval of Cheques Issued - March 2015

Warden David declared a conflict of interest because there were cheques written to his personal business and asked Deputy Warden McNamara to Chair the meeting in his absence and removed himself from discussion.

Moved by Councillor MacNeil, seconded by Councillor Sampson that the list of cheques issued for the month of March 2015 in the amount of \$1,319,022.64 (General Account) and \$19,019.50 (Water Account) be approved. Motion carried.

Review of Cheques – April 2015

For Information purposes.

Items Added to the Agenda

There were no items added.

Fifteen Minute Question Period

Ciaran Llachlan-Leavitt addressed the Committee regarding an item on the agenda.

Lisa Boudreau addressed the Committee regarding an item on the agenda.

Chuck Boudreau addressed the Committee regarding an item on the agenda.

In-Camera

Moved by Councillor Sampson, seconded by Councillor Johnson that the meeting move to an “In-Camera” session at 9:22 p.m. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Beaton that the meeting reconvene to regular session at 9:31 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Beaton that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED BY:

CAO/MUNICIPAL CLERK:

CHAIRPERSON